

## CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

5           1.     A method of forming a semantic description for content data, comprising  
the steps of:

          a)     retrieving one or more of a plurality of component semantic descriptions  
stored remotely from said content data according to reference information associated  
with said content data; and

10           b)     generating said semantic description using said one or more component  
semantic descriptions and said reference information.

          2.     A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step b) includes modifying  
said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic  
15     description.

          3.     A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step b) includes extracting a  
partial semantic description from said one or more component semantic descriptions  
to generate said semantic description.

20           4.     A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step b) includes combining  
said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic  
description.

5. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said steps a) and b) are performed in response to a request for said semantic description.

5 6. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of component semantic descriptions is distributively stored in a plurality of locations on a network.

7. A method as recited in Claim 6 wherein said network is the Internet.

10 8. A method as recited in Claim 7 further including the step of:  
assigning a uniform resource identifier (URI) to each component semantic description stored on the Internet to facilitate access.

15 9. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of component semantic descriptions is stored in a control dictionary.

10. A computer system comprising:  
a bus;  
a processor coupled to said bus; and  
20 a memory device coupled to said bus and having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of forming a semantic description for content data, said method comprising the steps of:

a) retrieving one or more of a plurality of component semantic descriptions stored remotely from said content data according to reference information associated with said content data; and

b) generating said semantic description using said one or more component semantic descriptions and said reference information.

11. A computer system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said step b) includes modifying said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic description.

12. A computer system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said step b) includes extracting a partial semantic description from said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic description.

13. A computer system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said step b) includes combining said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic description.

14. A computer system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said steps a) and b) are performed in response to a request for said semantic description.

15. A computer system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said plurality of component semantic descriptions is distributively stored in a plurality of locations on a network.

5 16. A computer system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said network is the Internet.

10 17. A computer system as recited in Claim 16 wherein each component semantic description stored on the Internet has a uniform resource identifier (URI) to facilitate access.

18. A computer system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said plurality of component semantic descriptions is stored in a control dictionary.

15 19. A semantic description for content data, comprising:  
one or more component semantic descriptions which are retrieved from a plurality of component semantic descriptions stored remotely from said content data according to reference information associated with said content data, wherein said one or more component semantic descriptions are processed based on said reference  
20 information to form said semantic description.

20. A semantic description as recited in Claim 19 wherein said one or more component semantic descriptions are modified to form said semantic description.

21. A semantic description as recited in Claim 19 wherein a partial semantic description is extracted from said one or more component semantic descriptions to form said semantic description.

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22. A semantic description as recited in Claim 19 wherein said one or more component semantic descriptions are combined to form said semantic description.

23. A semantic description as recited in Claim 19 wherein said one or more  
10 component semantic descriptions are retrieved in response to a request for said semantic description.

24. A semantic description as recited in Claim 19 wherein said plurality of  
component semantic descriptions is distributively stored in a plurality of locations on a  
15 network.

25. A semantic description as recited in Claim 24 wherein said network is the Internet.

20 26. A semantic description as recited in Claim 25 wherein each component semantic description stored on the Internet has a uniform resource identifier (URI) to facilitate access.

27. A semantic description as recited in Claim 19 wherein said plurality of component semantic descriptions is stored in a control dictionary.

28. A method of forming a semantic description for content data, comprising  
5 the steps of:

a) retrieving one or more of a plurality of component semantic descriptions stored remotely from said content data; and

b) generating said semantic description using said one or more component semantic descriptions.

29. A method as recited in Claim 28 wherein said step b) includes modifying said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic description.

30. A method as recited in Claim 28 wherein said step b) includes extracting a partial semantic description from said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic description.

31. A method as recited in Claim 28 wherein said step b) includes combining  
20 said one or more component semantic descriptions to generate said semantic description.

32. A method as recited in Claim 28 wherein said plurality of component semantic descriptions is distributively stored in a plurality of locations on a network.

33. A method as recited in Claim 28 wherein said network is the Internet.

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34. A method as recited in Claim 33 further including the step of:  
assigning a uniform resource identifier (URI) to each component semantic description stored on the Internet to facilitate access.

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35. A method as recited in Claim 28 wherein said plurality of component semantic descriptions is stored in a control dictionary.